

Virginia Center for Onsite Wastewater Training
Southside Virginia Community College Occupational/Technical Center
1041 West 10th Street
Pickett Park (Fort Pickett)
Blackstone, VA 23824

Vision Statement

Comprehensive understanding of onsite wastewater practices across Virginia.

Mission Statement

Provide education and training to ensure effective onsite wastewater systems, maintain water quality, and protect public health.

Minutes of the VCOWT Steering Committee Meeting
09 March 2007

Core Group Members Present:

Tom Joy, Chair	VDH / Blacksburg	Thomas.Joy@vdh.virginia.gov
Ed Dunn	VDH / Piedmont	Ed.Dunn@vdh.virginia.gov
Jamie Hawley	VDH / Piedmont	Jamie.Hawley@vdh.virginia.gov
Beth Manghi	VDH / Hanover	Beth.Manghi@vdh.virginia.gov
Karl Rudolph	VDH / Stafford	Karl.Rudolph@vdh.virginia.gov
Tom Reynolds	SVCC Rep	tom.reynolds@sv.vccs.edu
Douglas Phillips	SERCAP Rep	DPhillips@SERCAP.org

Core Group Members Absent:

K.R. Trapper Davis	CPEG / VOWRA	krdavis@cpegllc.com
Jim Bowles	VDH / Lynchburg	Jim.Bowles@vdh.virginia.gov
Danna Revis	VDH / Richmond	Danna.Revis@vdh.virginia.gov
Jay Duell	VDH / Western Tidewater	Jay.Duell@vdh.virginia.gov
Peter Hunt	SVCC Rep	Peter.Hunt@sv.vccs.edu
Anish Jantrania	VDH / Richmond	Anish.Jantrania@vdh.virginia.gov
Gary Whitley	VT Soils Scientist	Gary.Whitley@vdh.virginia.gov

Associate Group Members Present:

NA

Associate Group Members Absent:

NA

Guests:

Peter M. Brooks	PMBA, PC	pmbal@verizon.net
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Meeting opened at: 10:15

Committee Reports:

Master-List Committee: Beth Manghi, Chairperson.

Beth reported on the master e-mail list. She has approximately 680 addresses on the list and is still accumulating names from VOWRA and VEHA. The list will be used to send quarterly updates on classes.

SVCC –Related Issues:

Tom Reynolds discussed the following issues involving SVCC:

- Tom will be retiring in 16 months!

- Will the SVCC Board allow multiple entity (ME) CG members (i.e., organizations or corporations) to have seats on the SVCC Advisory Board under their organization or corporation name rather than having the seat assigned to a specific person from each ME? He will check on this.
- Placing class schedule and descriptions for the year on the website. Tom Joy suggested listing each class with a link to its description.
- Some people reportedly had trouble contacting Debbi Campbell for registration. Dennis Smith (email Dennis.Smith@sv.vccs.edu; phone 434 636-2008) can be contacted for any registration issues.
- Consider setting up a dedicated VCOWT phone line to facilitate the ability of prospective students to contact SVCC
- Danna Revis's seven Core Classes are now officially listed as SVCC 2-credit ENV courses. Students completing the courses will receive a 15-hour mini certificate equal to 1.5 CEUs. Beth Manghi suggested the courses be listed on the SVCC and VCOWT websites with a note that they are available for VDH personnel and also for AOSEs if space is available. This will be discussed with Danna.
- SVCC recently received a draft MOA from VOWRA and is in the process of reviewing it.
- A housekeeping item of which everyone (all smokers, at least) needs to be reminded: the smoking area is on the side of the building near the parking lot and not in front of the door. All instructors should make this clear to their classes.
- Danny Leblanc-workforce training for the state- is trying to reduce overlap between agencies. SVCC wants to encourage him to use Community College system as much as possible. Decision to be made March 21 and will impact SVCC.

Old Business:

- Tom Joy questioned whether we should vote on acceptance of the proposed by-laws presented at the last meeting, since there were only 8 members present and some changes still needed to be made. After discussion, motion to postpone acceptance of bylaws was made by Beth Manghi; seconded by Karl Rudolph. Vote: 6 for, 1 opposed. Vote on bylaws postponed to future meeting.

New Business:

- After discussion initiated by Tom Joy, a motion to designate VDH Regional Soil Scientists as an ME member of the CG was made by Jamie Hawley; seconded by Ed Dunn. Vote: Unanimous for.
- Karl Rudolph was approved as an official VDH CG member of the Steering Committee beginning with the April meeting.
- Tom Joy informed the Committee that at the last OEHS Staff Meeting, Bob Hicks made it known that he wants a VCOWT exhibit booth set up at a Managers (?) Seminar in SW VA on September 19th and at other meetings around the state after that. Someone with a digital camera is needed to take pictures of the VCOWT site development and annex construction for the exhibit. Motion to set up an Exhibit Committee was made by Karl Rudolph and seconded by Beth Manghi; vote was unanimous in favor of motion. There were no volunteers to chair the committee, so action was postponed for a later meeting.

- The issue of requesting tax-deductible donations to VCOWT from vendors and others was discussed. VCOWT is able to accept tax deductible donations through the SVCC Foundation. Motion to request tax deductible donations from vendors and others for the center was made by Jamie Hawley and seconded by Ed Dunn; vote was unanimous in favor of motion. Beth Manghi suggested that information on tax deductible donations be put on website also.
- Tom Joy voiced his concern that a permeameter comparison study he suggested that was approved at an earlier meeting might cause bad feelings between the manufacturers and VCOWT. He suggested we reconsider our previous vote. After discussion, a motion not to pursue the study was made by Ed Dunn and seconded by Beth Manghi; vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- It was suggested that a Research Committee should be set up to propose other experiments that could be conducted at VCOWT. Further discussion will be at a held at a future meeting when more members are present.
- Tom Joy announced that Mountain Empire CC has on-line wastewater treatment operators classes. The Committee discussed implications of this. There is the possibility that VCOWT could have on-line courses. Tom Reynolds mentioned that there are some on-line classes available. He is looking into BREEZE program for VDH classes.
- Doug Phillips voiced a concern that if VCOWT offers training to outside groups it could conflict with SERCAP's plans to offer training opportunities to similar groups at its Halifax location. After discussion it was concluded that the fact that groups would tend to use whichever facility they were closest to would tend to prevent conflicts.
- Tom Joy recommended the establishment of two additional committees: one to work on the development of on-line classes and the other to be an outreach group to find additional organizations (such as VOWRA and SERCAP) to join the steering committee. This will be discussed at a later meeting.
- Peter Brooks was asked about how he is progressing with his single family discharge systems class. He has sent an outline to Anish and is waiting for feedback. Tom Joy requested a copy of the proposal and suggested that he resend it to Anish.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.